GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2007
ANSWERED ON:27.08.2007
GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS
Boianapalli Shri Vinod Kumar

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government to protect agro bio-diversity from contamination from Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) as per the recommendation of the M. S. Swaminathan Task Force on agro bio-technology; and

(b) the details of GM-Free Zones declared so far to protect agro diversity rich areas in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a) & (b): Approval for commercial cultivation of Genetically Modified (GM) crops is accorded by the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee of Ministry of Environment & Forests, which has been constituted under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. Permission is accorded after an elaborate trial and evaluation process, which addresses all relevant concerns, including bio-safety and suitability of the GM crop for a particular agro-climatic zone. No particular area has been declared as GM − Free Zone.